

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 A-01 FBO-02 L-03 /016 R

DRAFTED BY:EA/VLC:MHENDERSON

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----- 109741

R 120048Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC HONO HI

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FOR CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, AFSP, ABLD, LA, US

SUBJECT: HILLTOP HOUSES

REF: VIENTIANE 591, 597, 598

1. DEPARTMENT ENDORSES EMBASSY'S INFORMAL RESPONSE TO LAO
MFA APPROACH REGARDING MINISTRY OF DEFENSE'S DESIRE TO
TAKE OVER THE HILLTOP HOUSES. WHEN THE LAO DO MAKE A
FORMAL REQUEST FOR THESE HOUSES, YOU SHOULD INFORM THEM
THAT MATTER WILL HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO WASHINGTON. YOU
SHOULD ALSO TELL THE LAO THAT A REQUEST NOW FOR THE TURN-
OVER OF THE HILLTOP HOUSES, COULD NOT FAIL TO BE RELATED TO
THE CONTINUED ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF THE GSO AND SILVER
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CITY COMPOUNDS.

2. EMBASSY IS CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT WE WILL LINK ANY
TURNOVER OF THE HILLTOP HOUSES WITH A SETTLEMENT ON SILVER
CITY AND GSO COMPOUNDS. INDEED, SHOULD IT TURN OUT THAT
THE LAO ARE WILLING TO RESOLVE SILVER CITY/GSO PROBLEM ON
SATISFACTORY TERMS, THE INCONVENIENCE AND BOTHER OF
RELEASING THE HILLTOP HOUSES COULD MAKE THE WHOLE
EXPERIENCE A RELATIVELY POSITIVE ONE. KISSINGER

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